

HISTORICAL REFERENCE  
to  
PRICKETTS' FORT AND ITS DEFENDERS  
with  
INCIDENTS OF BORDER WARFARE  
in the  
MONONGAHELA VALLEY  
and  
CEREMONIES AT UNVEILING OF MONUMENT  
MARKING SITE OF PRICKETT'S FORT,  
ERECTED IN 1774  
INCLUDING BRIEF SKETCHES OF  
MAJOR WILLIAM HAYMOND  
AND THE ANCESTORS OF THE MORGAN  
AND PRICKETT FAMILIES  
by  
HENRY HAYMOND  
of Clarksburg, W. Va.

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Let us keep alive in the minds and hearts of posterity the memories  
of those who blazed the way for the settlement of this  
valley and contributed their part to secure  
American freedom



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MONUMENT ERECTED MARKING THE SITE OF PRICKETT'S FORT

## HISTORY OF INDIAN WARS AND ERECTION OF PRICKETT'S FORT.

I hear the tread of pioneers  
Of nations yet to be.  
The first low wash of waves  
Where soon shall roll a human sea.—Whittier.

When Jacob Prickett, with a pack on his back and a flint lock rifle on his shoulder, in the year 1772, located his settlement right of four hundred acres on the Monongahela river, at the mouth of a then un-named creek, now Pricketts Creek, Marion county, West Virginia, Virginia was a colony of Great Britain, and the entire country west of the Allegheny mountains was a wilderness and known as the District of West Augusta—Monongalia county not being created until 1776.

Along the above named river and its tributaries were scattered a few cabins of settlers, the largest collections being at Morgantown and Buckhannon.

Fort Pitt, where Pittsburgh now stands, had been garrisoned by a small body of British troops since its capture in 1758 from the French by General Forbes, then known as Fort Duquesne.

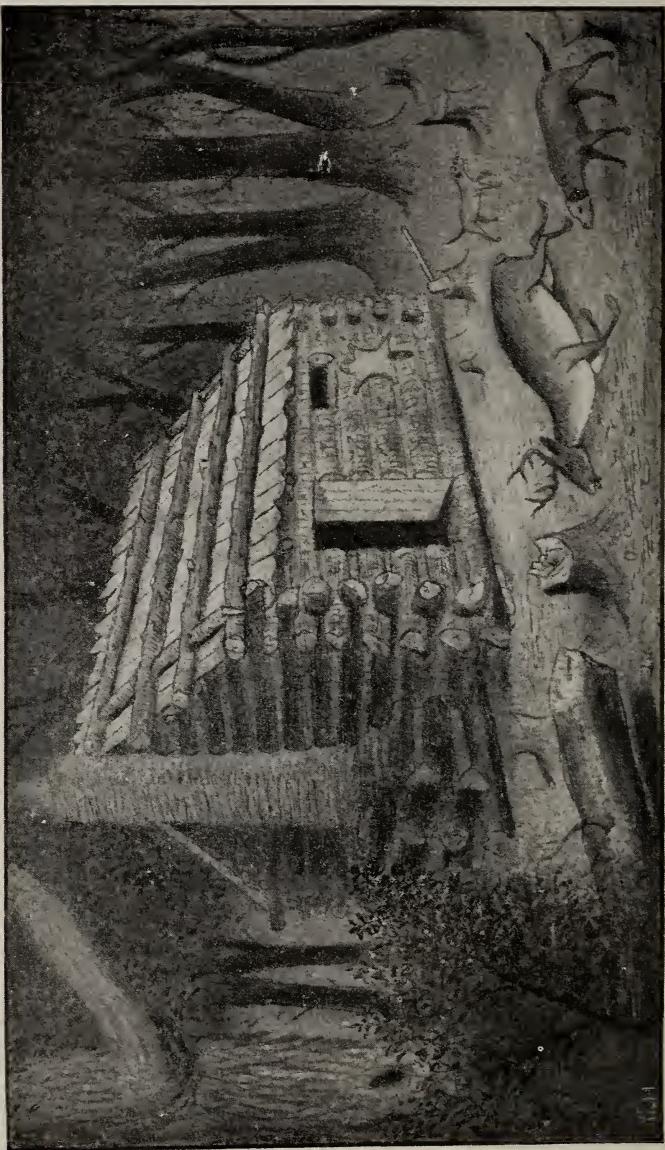
Jacob Prickett did not receive title to his entry until 1781. When the commissioners for unpatented lands, composed of John P. Duval, James Neal and William Haymond, met at the house of John Evans near Morgantown in March, 1781, they granted certificates of title, among others to Prickett, for the four hundred acres mentioned, upon which the fort was erected, and which has been in the possession of members of the Prickett family ever since.

At this time the Royal Governor of the Colony of Virginia was John Murray, Earl of Dunmore, with his official residence at Williamsburg.

For some years previous to 1774 there had been peace upon the frontier, but early in this year the canoes and pack horses of the white traders along the upper Ohio, were robbed by Indians, and in retaliation some of them were killed by the whites. Finally the members of the family of Logan, a Mingo chief of great prominence, was murdered while they were peacefully in camp on the Ohio side of the river opposite what is now Hancock county, West Virginia.

Lord Dunmore, by reason of urgent appeals from the settlers west of the mountains, determined to recruit an army and invade the Indian country beyond the Ohio and destroy their villages.

One division of the army collected at Camp Union, now in Green-



PIONEER CABIN

brier county, under command of General Andrew Lewis, and the other near Winchester commanded by Dunmore.

The army under General Lewis moved west, and on October 10th, 1774, in what has been described by the historian as the battle of Point Pleasant, completely defeated the combined Indian tribes under their great Chief Cornstalk, of the Shawnee tribe. This battle was fought at the junction of the Ohio and Great Kanawha rivers and in recent years has been marked by a monument erected by the State of West Virginia.

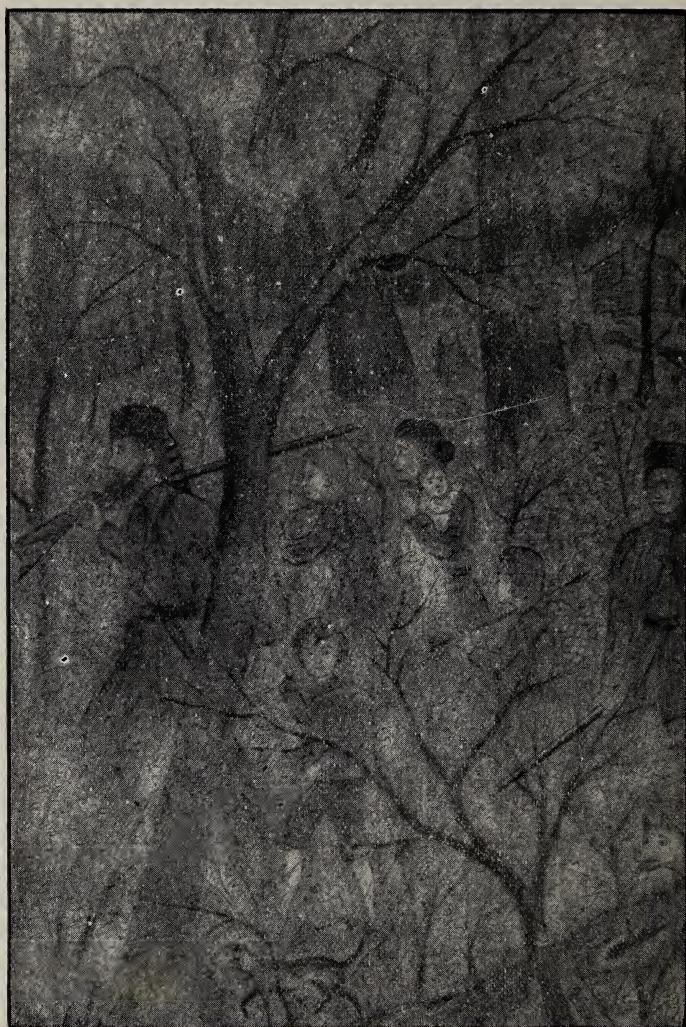
Dunmore's command moved up the Potomac, thence by way of Fort Pitt and Wheeling down the Ohio to the mouth of the Hockhocking, and proceeded on to the Sciota river, where the warlike Shawnees had their villages, and made a treaty of peace with them at Camp Charlotte in what is now Pickaway county, Ohio. This treaty was soon violated by the Indians.

It was at the meeting to conclude this treaty that Logan, the celebrated Mingo chief, when sent for by Dunmore, declined to come, but sent by the messenger the speech which is familiar to most Americans, and is considered the most able and eloquent in the annals of Indian oratory and which Thomas Jefferson pronounced so able that none of the orators of the old world could produce a sentence superior to it.

#### SPEECH OF LOGAN.

"I appeal to any white man to say if he ever entered Logan's cabin hungry and he gave him not meat; if ever he came cold and naked and he clothed him not. During the course of the last long and bloody war Logan remained idle in his cabin an advocate of peace. Such was my love for the whites that my countrymen pointed as they passed, and said 'Logan is a friend of the white men.' I had even thought to live with you but for the injuries of one man. Col. Cresap last spring, in cold blood and unprovoked, murdered all the relations of Logan, not even sparing my women and children. There runs not a drop of my blood in the veins of any living creature. This called on me for revenge. I have sought it. I have killed many. I have glutted my vengeance. For my country I rejoice at the beams of peace, but do not harbor the thought that mine is the joy of fear. Logan never felt fear. He will not turn on his heel to save his life. Who is there to mourn for Logan; not one."

Col. Michael Cresap and his friends always denied the charge that he was implicated in the murder of Logan's family. Col. Cresap died October 18, 1775, in New York of a fever contracted while serving in the patriot army at the siege of Boston, and was buried in Trinity Churchyard.



ON THE WAY TO THE FORT

### FORTS AND STOCKADES AND THEIR CONSTRUCTION.

The breaking out of Dunmore's war, as it was called, caused widespread terror and alarm among the settlers on the frontier, and they hurriedly commenced building forts for each little neighborhood as protection against the attack of the Indians. It was at this period, in 1774, that Prickett's fort, the site of which we today mark, was built. The fort was situated on the east side of the Monongahela river and above the mouth of Prickett's creek, about one thousand feet from the river and about the same distance from the creek.

The usual frontier forts were constructed rectangular in shape, the outside walls being in part cabins joined to each other by a stockade, composed of strong logs set on end firmly in the ground and in contact with each other. The outer walls of these cabins were from ten to twelve feet high, with the roofs sloping inward. The doors of the cabins opened into a common square or court.

Bastions were sometimes erected at two or more corners, projecting beyond the cabins and stockade, so as to enable the defenders to sweep the outside walls of the stockade with rifle fire.

The Block House was a square two-story structure with port holes both above and below, the walls of the upper story projecting on all sides about two (2) feet over those of the lower story.

In some less exposed localities the cabins were surrounded by a stockade enclosing them in a square. Such arrangements for defense were called stockades, but generally the name of "fort" was applied to all places of refuge.

It has not been possible to learn anything as to the construction of Prickett's fort, but it is presumed that it must have been of considerable size and importance as a company of militia was stationed there in 1777, and State Historian Lewis states that "In the early years of the Revolution it afforded protection to all the settlers in that part of the Monongahela valley."

The various tribes of Indians who carried on war against the whites had their permanent villages beyond the Ohio, and during the summer season, would sally out in small parties and make murderous raids on the Virginia border, and in their savage fury spared neither age nor sex.

For twenty years after the commencement of the Dunmore war these hostilities continued with occasional intermissions.

When an alarm was given by the scouts who watched the trails leading from the Ohio river, that a party of Indians was approaching the settlement, the inhabitants would immediately resort to the nearest fort for protection.

When housed in the fort, members of families would occasionally return to their clearings to cultivate the growing crops, and it was

during one of these visits that Isaiah Prickett, in the summer of 1774, was killed about two miles from Fort Prickett and a Mrs. Ox who was with him captured and never heard of afterwards.

The celebrated encounter of David Morgan with the two Indians occurred in April, 1778, on his farm, on the west side of the river, about one mile back from it and opposite the fort. A monument marks the spot.

The Border Warfare gives the following account of the affair:

#### DAVID MORGAN AND THE INDIANS.

"Among those who were at this time in the fort (Prickett's) was David Morgan (a relation of General Daniel Morgan) then upward of sixty years of age. Early in April, being himself unwell, he sent his two children, Stephen, a youth of sixteen, and Sarah, a girl of fourteen, to feed the cattle at the farm about a mile off.

"The children thinking to remain all day and spend the time in preparing ground for water melons, unknown to their father, took with them some bread and meat. Having fed the stock, Stephen set himself to work, and while he was engaged in grubbing his sister would remove the brush and otherwise aid him in the labor of cleaning the ground, occasionally going to the house to wet some linen which she had spread out to bleach. Morgan, after the children had been gone some time, betook himself to bed and soon falling asleep dreamed that he saw Stephen and Sarah walking about the fort yard scalped. Aroused from slumber by the harrowing spectacle presented to his sleeping view, he inquired if the children had returned, and upon learning they had not, he set out to see what detained them, taking with him his gun. As he approached the house, still impressed with the horrible fear that he should find his dream realized, he ascended an eminence from which he could distinctly see over his plantation, and descrying from thence the objects of his anxious solicitation, he proceeded directly to them, and seated himself on an old log near at hand. He had been there but a few minutes before he saw two Indians come out from the house and make towards the children. Fearing to alarm them too much and thus deprive them of the power of exerting themselves ably to make an escape he apprized them in a careless manner of their danger, and told them to run towards the fort, himself still maintaining his seat on the log. The Indians then raised a hideous yell and ran in pursuit, but the old gentleman showing himself at that instant, caused them to forbear the chase, and shelter themselves behind trees. He then endeavored to effect an escape by flight and the Indians followed after him. Age and consequent infirmity rendered him unable long to continue out of their reach, and aware that they were gaining considerably on him he wheeled to shoot. Both

instantly sprang behind trees. Morgan, seeking shelter in the same manner, got behind a sugar which was so small as to leave part of his body exposed. Looking around he saw a large oak about twenty yards farther, and he made to it. Just as he reached it, the foremost Indian sought shelter behind the sugar sapling which he, Morgan, had found insufficient for his protection. The Indian sensible that it would not shelter him, threw himself down by the side of a log, which lay at the root of the sapling. But this did not furnish him sufficient cover, and Morgan seeing him exposed to a shot fired at him. The ball took effect, and the savage rolling over on his back, stabbed himself twice in the breast.

"Having thus succeeded in killing one of his pursuers, Morgan took to flight, and the remaining Indian ran after him. It was now that trees could afford him no security, his gun was unloaded and his pursuer could approach him safely. The unequal race was continued about sixty yards, when looking over his shoulder he saw the savage within a few paces of him and with his gun raised. Morgan sprang to one side and the ball whizzed harmlessly by him. The odds were not now great, and both advanced to closer combat sensible of the prize for which they had to contend, and each determined to deal death to his adversary. Morgan aimed a blow with his gun; but the Indian hurled a tomahawk at him which cutting the little finger of his left hand entirely off, and injuring the one next to it very much, knocked the gun out of his grasp, and they closed. Being a good wrestler Morgan succeeded in throwing the Indian, but soon found himself overturned, and the savage upon him feeling for his knife and sending forth a most terrific yell, as is their custom when they consider victory as secure. A woman's apron which he had taken from the house and fastened around him above his knife, so hindered him in getting at it quickly, that Morgan getting one of his fingers in his mouth, deprived him of the use of that hand, and disconcerted him very much by continuing to grind it between his teeth. At last the Indian got hold of his knife, but so far towards the blade that Morgan too got a small hold on the extremity of the handle; and as the Indian drew it from the scabbard, Morgan biting his finger with all his might, and causing him somewhat to relax his grip, drew it through his hand gashing it most severely.

"By this time both had gained their feet, and the Indian sensible of the great advantage gained over him, endeavored to disengage himself, but Morgan held fast to the finger until he succeeded in giving him a fatal stab, and felt the almost lifeless body sinking in his arms. He then loosened his hold and departed for the fort.

"On his way he met with his daughter, who not being able to keep pace with her brother, had followed his footsteps to the river bank

where he had plunged in, and was then making her way to the canoe. Assured thus far of the safety of his children, he accompanied his daughter to the fort, and then in company with a party of the men, returned to his farm to see if there was any appearance of other Indians being about there. On arriving on the spot where the desperate struggle had been, the wounded Indian was not to be seen, but trailing him by the blood, which flowed profusely from his side, they found him concealed in the branches of a fallen tree. He had taken the knife from his body, bound up the wound with the apron and on their approaching him, accosted them familiarly with the salutation 'How do, do, brother; how do, brother.' Alas poor fellow, their brotherhood extended no farther than to the gratification of a vengeful feeling. He was tomahawked and scalped; and if this would not fill the measure of their vindictive passion, both he and his companion were flayed, their skins tanned and converted into saddle seats, shot pouches and belts. A striking instance of the barbarities which a revengeful spirit will lead its possessors to perpetrate."

David Morgan was born at Christiana, Delaware, May 12, 1721, and died on his home farm opposite the fort on May 19, 1813, and like many of the pioneers held an undying hatred towards the Indian race; so much so that after peace had been declared, on one occasion when a friendly Indian was passing through his neighborhood it was with the greatest difficulty that he could be prevented from shooting him.

#### THE GARRISON OF THE FORT.

Roll of Captain William Haymond's Company of Monongalia County Militia while stationed at Prickett's Fort during the months of April, May and June in the year 1777.

Captain, William Haymond,  
 Lieutenant, Morgan Morgan,  
 Ensign, James Johnson,  
 Sergeant, Zarah Ozban,

#### PRIVATES.

Amos Ashcraft	Peter Popeno
John Doherty	Levy Carter
Edmond Chaney	John Carter
Jeremiah Chaney	Frederick Hukelberry
David Morgan	Jarvis Brumagen
Thomas Haymond	Jeremiah Simson
William Pettyjohn	Valentine Kenneth,
Amos Pettyjohn	Evan Morgan
Robert Campbell	Ruben Boner
John Ice	James Morgan, Sr.
Frederick Ice	John Lemasters
Henry Hank	James Morgan, Jr.

**OLD ACCOUNTS AND REQUISITIONS FOR SUPPLIES FOR THE FORT.**

The following are copies of provision returns purchased for the use of the garrison:

1777.—Mr. John Corbbly, Coms'y, Dr.

By John Vandroof, 335 lbs. pork.

By Morgan Morgan, 102 lbs. bacon.

Do do 7 pints of salt.

By David Morgan, 219 lbs. of meal.

By Frederick Ice, Sen., 148 lbs. do.

By Calder Haymond, 31 do.

Received above mentioned provisions for use of the militia stationed at Prickett's Fort under my command from the 12th of June until the 15th of July following, 1777.

WILLM. HAYMOND, Captain.

Sir: Please let Owen Davy have ten pounds of lead.

From your friend, &c.,

JOHN EVANS.

To Capt. Wm. Haymond.

15th Aug., 1777.

Received of Capt. Jacob Prickett 433 lbs. of pork, 432 pounds of Indian meal and 11 pints of salt for use of the militia stationed at Prickett's Fort under my command.

WILLM. HAYMOND, Capt.

15th July, 1777.

Capt. Charles Martin, Commissary.

June 15, 1777—By Col. Zackel Morgan, 28 rations,

By do. do 1 quart salt.

By do. do 106 lb. bacon.

By Thomas Day, delivered, 200 lb. bacon.

By Wm. Smith, delivered, 12½ bu. meal.

By one gallon salt.

By 61 lb. pork delivered by your son Jesse.

By Capt. Scott, 137 lb. pork.

By James Scott, 303 lb. pork.

By David Watkins, 60 lb. pork.

Capt. Martin, Dr.

To pork damaged, 44 lb.

To bacon damaged, 15 lb.

To Thomas Day, 20½ lb. pork.

To Thomas Day, 4½ lb. bacon.

Received the within mentioned provisions for use of the militia in actual service under my command from the 15th day of April, 1777, to the 15th day of June.

WILLM. HAYMOND, Capt.

PAY ROLL OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM HAYMOND'S COMPANY OF MONON-  
GALIA COUNTY MILITIA.

1777. From the 15th of April until the 12th of June following.

Men's Names.	Commencing	Ending	In Service		Currency	Penns
			Months	Days		
Wm. Haymond, Capt...	Apr. 15	Jun. 12	1	28	40	29
Morgan Morgan, Lt...	Do. 15	Do. 12	1	28	27	19
James Johnston, Ens.	Do. 26	Do. 12	1	17	20	11
Zarah Ozban, Sergt...	Do. 15	Do. 12	1	28	8	5
Amos Ashcraft.....	Do. 15	Do. 12	1	28	6 2-3	16
John Doherty.....	Do. 15	Do. 12	1	28	6 2-3	4
Edmond Chaney.....	Do. 15	Do. 12	1	28	6 2-3	4
Jereh. Chaney.....	Do. 15	Do. 12	1	28	6 2-3	4
David Morgan.....	Do. 15	Do. 12	1	28	6 2-3	2
Thos. Haymond.....	Do. 15	May 15	1	19	6 2-3	10
Willm. Pettyjohn.....	Do. 15	Jun. 12	1	1	6 2-3	1
Amos Pettyjohn.....	Do. 15	Do. 12	1	17	6 2-3	11
Robt. Campbell.....	Do. 15	Do. 12	1	28	6 2-3	3
John Ice.....	Do. 15	Do. 12	1	28	6 2-3	18
Fredk. Ice.....	Do. 15	Do. 12	1	28	6 2-3	4
Henry Hank.....	Do. 20	May 19	1	28	6 2-3	16
Peter Popeno.....	Do. 24	Jun. 12	1	28	6 2-3	16
Levy Carter.....	Do. 26	May 26	1	1	6 2-3	11
John Carter.....	Do. 26	Jun. 12	1	28	6 2-3	16
Fredk. Huckleberry.....	Do. 26	Do. 12	1	17	6 2-3	18
Jarvis Brumagen.....	Do. 26	Do. 12	1	28	6 2-3	4
Jeremiah Simson.....	Do. 26	May 19	1	17	6 2-3	18
Valentine Kennett.....	Do. 26	Jun. 12	1	24	6 2-3	18
Evan Morgan.....	M'y 11	Do. 12	1	2	6 2-3	13
Ruben Boner.....	Do. 11	Do. 12	1	2	6 2-3	13
James Morgan Sr.....	Do. 16	Do. 12	27		6 2-3	5
John Lemasters.....	Do. 28	Do. 12	15		6 2-3	5
James Morgan, Jr.....	Do. 15	Do. 12	1	28	6 2-3	16

L. S. D. Virginia Currency.

\$420. 126.0.8

How long this company was in active service is not known, but Capt. Haymond is known to have said that he was in service as a militia officer during the whole of the Revolutionary war.

#### INDIAN RAIDS AND PEACE TREATIES.

At this time the war of the Revolution was on in full force, and Lieutenant Governor Henry Hamilton, who was the British commander at Detroit, equipped the Indians, furnished them with arms and ammunition and encouraged them to make murderous raids in small parties upon the frontiers of Virginia, Kentucky and Pennsylvania, and was accused of offering a reward for all scalps taken from settlers, and consequently was known as the "Hair buyer."

So disastrous were these raids, and so many of the settlers were killed and captured during the year 1777, that it was known along the border as the "Bloody Year of the Three Sevens."

As illustrating the character of such raids, the following is given as one instance:

On the 11th day of April, 1778, a party of Indians visited the house of William Morgan at the Dunkard bottom on Cheat River, and killed a young man by the name of Brain. Mrs. Morgan, the mother of William, her grand daughter, a Mrs. Dillon and her two children, and took Mrs. Morgan, the wife, and her child prisoners.

When on their way home they came near to Prickett's Fort they bound Mrs. Morgan to a bush and went in quest of a horse for her to ride, leaving her child with her. She succeeded in untying, with her teeth, the bands which confined her, and wandered the balance of that day and part of the next, before she came in sight of the fort. Here she was kindly treated and in a few days sent home. Some man going out from Prickett's Fort some short time after found at the spot where Mrs. Morgan had been left by the Indians, a fine mare stabbed to the heart. Exasperated at the escape of Mrs. Morgan they had no doubt vented their rage on the animal which they had destined to bear her weight.

The various treaties with the Indian tribes failed to bring peace, and several military expeditions against them resulting in disaster. Washington as President appointed Gen. Anthony Wayne to organize troops to invade their country, and after many tedious delays the army moved from Fort Washington, (Cincinnati) in October, 1793, advanced into the Indian territory, and on August 20, 1794, at the battle of Fallen Timbers on the Maumee river in Ohio, gained a complete victory over them and broke the power of the Northwest tribes, causing them to sue for peace. All of the hostile tribes on the 3rd of August, 1795, at Greenville, Ohio, signed a treaty of peace.

When the glad tidings of Wayne's victory was known it was re-

ceived by the settlers on the frontiers with the greatest joy as it gave promise of peace and was the sweetest music to the pioneers that ever floated around their humble cabins.

The pioneers in the Monongahela Valley were almost without exception, natives or descendants of Great Britain, sterling aggressive men, and fit representatives of the Anglo-Saxon race.

#### THE PART OF WOMEN IN EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

If the situation imposed hardships and responsibilities upon the men, what must have been the burdens borne by the women in the wilderness? Cut off from parents and the friends of childhood, with no mails, or means of communicating with them, with scanty clothing and without nourishing food, with no diversions save the dull drudgery of household duties, in cold and uncomfortable cabins, and with constant anxiety for the fate of the husband engaged in warfare with the savages, not knowing what moment a terrible fate would befall herself and children, the wife of the pioneer was indeed surrounded with hardships and oppressed by trials that only the most sublime fortitude enabled her to endure. Her courage in times of danger when assailed by savage foes was as marked as the privations and sacrifices she was called upon to undergo and bear to aid in the cultivation and development of forest lands into habitations for the coming resolute race of free people who delight in paying to her memory the homage her achievements and sufferings so well deserve.

Many wilted like broken flowers in the sun, and died in their young womanhood, unable to bear the hardships, privations and terrors of a life in the wilderness. It was a time that tried the souls of men and broke the hearts of women.

All honor to these noble women who so loyally and bravely did their part in reclaiming a savage land. They in truth had declared to their husbands in the beautiful language of Ruth, "Whither thou goeth I will go, and where thou lodgest I will lodge, and where thou diest will I die, and there will I be buried."

#### CAPT. WILLIAM HAYMOND AND THE MORGANS.

Captain William Haymond, the commander of the garrison of Prickett's Fort, was born in the colony of Maryland on January 4th, 1740, O. S., and died near Quiet Dell, Harrison County, November 12th, 1821.

He served in the Virginia Regiment commanded by Col. George Washington, in the French and Indian wars, most of his service being in the neighborhood of Fort Pitt, now Pittsburgh. His discharge, dated in 1762, states that "he has duly served three years and behaved as a good soldier and faithful subject."

He married Cassandra Clelland, and in 1773, he sold his plantation near where the town of Rockville, Md., now stands, and moved to Morgantown in the district of West Augusta.

When Monongalia county was established as a county in 1776, he held the offices of sheriff, justice of the peace and deputy surveyor.

In 1776, he was appointed by Governor Patrick Henry a captain of militia, and in 1781 was commissioned major by Governor Benjamin Harrison. He was a member of the commission for adjusting the claims of settlers to unpatented lands, and was an official appointed to administer the oath to the inhabitants renouncing allegiance to King George. When Harrison county was organized in 1784, he was appointed surveyor and rode to Williamsburg to be examined by the professors of William and Mary's College.

He removed to Clarksburg in the fall of that year and retained the office of surveyor until his death the long period of thirty-seven years.

Morgan Morgan was born on Prickett's creek December 20, 1743. He married Miss Drusilla Prickett. He was the lieutenant in Captain Haymond's Company during his command of the fort and was a son of David Morgan who was also a member of the company. This was the David Morgan who had the fight with the two Indians. There were five Morgans in the company.

After the Indian war was over, Morgan Morgan settled down to the life of a farmer, near the Monongalia and Marion county line.

Stephen Morgan, the boy who was with his father David at the time of his fight with the Indians, lived to a great age and died on the home farm opposite the fort.

Sarah, the daughter, who was also present, married Elijah Burrows and died at Morgantown.

#### JACOB PRICKETT AND DESCENDANTS.

The history of the Prickett family as taken from the records prepared by John J. Prickett, lately deceased, shows that Jacob Prickett, the father of Josiah Prickett, was married to Dorothy Springer in the year 1725, near Winchester, Va. Dorothy Springer was the sister of Dennis Springer, who died at Winchester, in 1700. The Springers emigrated from Delaware to Virginia, and doubtless belonged to that prominent Springer family many of whose descendants now live in this section. This suggestion does not appear in Mr. Prickett's record, but is a conclusion from the similarity of names and the fact that the original Springer family came from Delaware. The record further states that Jacob Prickett and family came to what is now West Virginia from near Winchester.

Jacob Prickett and son Josiah took up 400 acres of land each, located near Prickett's Fort. Jacob and Dorothy had eleven children, six sons and five daughters. Josiah, the oldest, married Charity Tay-

lor. A monument was erected to her in the Prickett graveyard in sight of this marker in 1907. It is claimed she was the first white woman to cross the Alleghany mountains. Nancy married Reuben Bunner; Isaac married Mary Campbell; Dorothy married James Dunn; John married Elizabeth Hays; Mary married Jacob Lucas; Martha married Peter Parker, and James married Mary Springer. Isaiah, the other son, was killed and scalped by Indians during a period when the settlers had sought refuge in Prickett's Fort. Withers and other historians say that Josiah Prickett in company with a Mrs. Ox had gone out of the fort to look up their cows and bring them to the fort. That roving Indians attracted by the tinkling of the cow bells secreted themselves in ambush and as these two were driving the cows along a path, waylaid and killed Prickett, taking Mrs. Ox as a captive. The traditions of the Prickett family agree in the main with these statements, with the exception that they declare that it was Isaiah instead of Josiah that was killed, and doubtless this is true.

The scene of this tragedy was located within a short distance of the southern entrance to the tunnel of the Monongahela railroad, near the residence of Brady Meredith. It was for many years marked by a pine tree which was destroyed by the excavation for the tunnel.

From Jacob and Josiah Prickett descended and spread that large number of descendants that now comprise the Prickett family and its branches. It is to the credit both of those who planted this family and those who have followed after them, that the Prickett name has ever been an honorable one. For generations past it has represented sterling character, sturdy honesty, and the possession of all the elements that make good citizenship. The men are noted for their industry and integrity, the women for their virtue and for being good wives and mothers and true and loyal helpmates for their husbands. Some of these descendants have succeeded in attaining to wealth and honors; nearly all have been upright and commanded the respect and confidence of their fellow men. The example left by these pioneer Pricketts of industry and probity has been strictly kept in mind by the descendants of the family even to this late day. Such were the character and habits of nearly all of those who braved hardships and dangers in the early days of the settlement of this country. They were brave, loyal and steadfast in their ideas of honesty and virtue; they suffered that we might enjoy; they sowed that we might reap. It is eminently fitting that we should erect monuments and dedicate them with appropriate ceremonies to commemorate their virtues and keep alive the recollections of their courage and endurance and hand them down to posterity, that it too may be inspired by the thrilling stories of how they lived and toiled and suffered to pave a way for those who came after them.

